

2359Z 26 FEB 66

TOP SECRET

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DIRECTOR

FROM: [REDACTED]

ACTION:

INFO:

ROUTINE

342

TOR 0041Z 27 FEB 66

IN 90536

PRIORITY [REDACTED]

INFO [REDACTED]

ONE [REDACTED]

IDEALIST [REDACTED]

1. TAPED DEBRIEFING OF TANKER CREW NOW COMPLETE. PILOT DEBRIEFING HELD SHORTLY AFTER HE WAS RETURNED TO [REDACTED] BY BASE HELICOPTER AND SQUADRON DOCTOR. HQS, [REDACTED] AND LAC PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED IN ALL DEBRIEFING. EYEWITNESS REPORTS FROM TANKER CREW VERIFY PREVIOUS FINDINGS. FROM ALL REPORTS PULL UP AND BANK AFTER WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS AN EXCEPTIONALLY FINE REFUELING WERE NORMAL FOR U-2. PILOT WAS IN A 27 DEGREE CLIMB AND 20 DEGREES OF BANK AT MOMENT OF DISINTEGRATION (WORD DISINTEGRATION IS TANKER CREW'S TERMINOLOGY). ACCORDING TO CREW ARTICLE DISINTEGRATED INTO THREE LARGE PIECES (ENGINE, WING AND FUSELAGE) AND NUMEROUS SMALLER PIECES. ALL LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FUNCTIONED NORMALLY. PILOT REPORTED MINOR OSCILLATION INSIDE THE COCKPIT BUT ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY IN ACTIVATING ANY OF THE EJECTION MECHANISM.

2. ENGINE SECTIONS ONLY PARTS THUS FAR LOCATED. SEARCH HAMPERED BY BAD WEATHER. GROUND SEARCH CONTINUING. ENGINE

TOP SECRET

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

3

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T O P S E C R E T

[REDACTED] IN 900356

PAGE TWO

SECTIONS FOUND NINE MILES EAST SOUTHEAST OF TOWN OF LARAIN, WHICH IS APPROX 30 MILES EAST OF BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA.

AREA IS SPARSELY INHABITED AND HAVE HAD NO REPORTS OF AIRCRAFT PARTS BEING FOUND OR ANY ONE HAVING OBSERVED THE INCIDENT EXCEPT A FOREST RANGER WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA AND REPORTED HE SAW THE ENGINE HIT THE GROUND.

3. HOSPITALIZATION WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR PILOT. APPEARS NO FRACTURES AND OTHER THAN NORMAL ACHES PILOT IN GOOD CONDITION.

4. BASE SUPPORT IN ALL RESPECTS HAS BEEN EXCELLENT.

END OF MESSAGE

T O P S E C R E T

